



Essay Contest Rules and Prompt
26th Annual Essay and Slogan Contest
Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes

1. The Essay Contest is open to all Kentucky high school students in grades 9-12.
2. Essay entry is limited to one per student. Previous contest entries will not be accepted.
3. Essay may be no longer than 600 words. All entries must be typed and double-spaced.
4. Student and school names shall not appear anywhere in the body of the essay.
5. Essays will be judged on research and understanding of voting and the First Amendment, idea development, organization, language, and correctness (see attached rubric).
6. Students must submit their essays with the enclosed entry form. All sections of the entry form must be completed.
7. Essays may be submitted either online at www.sos.ky.gov/contests or by mail to the address below. Essays submitted online must be in Microsoft Word format.
8. All entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. (EST) December 12, 2014, or postmarked by that date.
9. Entries become the property of the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office and will not be returned.
10. All guidelines must be met for any entry to be considered by contest judges.

Essay Prompt:

The government established by our Founding Fathers operates under the theory that citizens will participate in the democratic electoral process. That concept is reinforced by the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press from interference by the government. The news media play an important role in elections, but the media may also introduce some problems. At one time, almost every newspaper in the United States was loyal to and was supported by one political party or another. Do you think today's voters would be better informed by news media if that were still the practice in 2014?

Mail entries to: ATTN: Slogan and Essay Contest
Office of the Secretary of State
Suite 152, State Capitol
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

You may also submit entries online at www.sos.ky.gov/contests.

Note: Family members of employees of the Office of the Secretary of State or the State Board of Elections are not eligible to enter the Essay Contest.